
FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 3.16.2010

Wall Street Journal: "Wall Street Loses as Small Banks Win ... A proposal advanced by Senate Democrats on Monday to overhaul financial markets would take sharp aim at big Wall Street banks, with provisions that would rein in profits, require more capital and tamp down executive compensation, likely exacerbating a political brawl between bankers and the White House."

Wall Street Journal: "Lehman Whistle-Blower's Fate: Fired ... Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. ousted a whistle-blower just weeks after he raised red flags about the securities firm's accounting in 2008."

Wall Street Journal: "Bank Chief Accused of TARP Fraud ... A lifelong banking-industry executive was arrested Monday on numerous charges, including allegations of defrauding regulators in connection with what prosecutors said was his desperate effort to save his New York bank from failing."

Wall Street Journal: "Federal Reserve Could Emerge With Enhanced Powers ... The Federal Reserve, battered by the public and politicians for months, emerged a winner in the latest Senate draft of legislation to remake the nation's financial regulatory system."

Wall Street Journal: "The Federal Reserve as Piggy Bank ... The Federal Reserve funds itself, making money on the buying and selling and holding of U.S. government and mortgage-backed securities, among other things. After paying its expenses, any profits go to the U.S. Treasury."

Wall Street Journal: "Dodd Bill: Progress but Not Perfect ... That is the challenge facing any financial-sector overhaul legislation, including Monday's long-awaited Senate bill."

Washington Post: "European officials hold off on bailout package for Greece ... European finance chiefs failed to produce a detailed bailout plan for Greece on Monday but laid the groundwork for a potential rescue if the financial situation in the troubled Mediterranean nation deteriorates sharply."

Washington Post: "Concessions on financial reform bill yield few gains in Senate ... Sen. Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.), chairman of the Senate banking committee, introduced a revised bill on Monday to overhaul financial regulation that included compromises forged with Republicans in recent months but fell short of winning endorsement from conservatives, including members in his own party.'

Washington Post: "6 key points of the financial regulation legislation ... Dodd's second draft of financial reform legislation tracks closer to the bill that passed the House in December, eliminating several of the bold reforms he proposed last fall. But Republicans remain opposed, despite Dodd's decision to incorporate their ideas on some issues."

NY Times: "Dump Fannie and Freddie, G.O.P. Lawmaker Urges ... Senate Democrats may have ended negotiations with their Republican counterparts over the financial regulatory bill, but House Republicans remain active and vocal in the debate."

NY Times: "Junk Bond Avalanche Looms for Credit Markets ... When the Mayans envisioned the world coming to an end in 2012 - at least in the Hollywood telling - they didn't count junk bonds among the perils that would lead to worldwide disaster."

NY Times: "Reform Bill Adds Layers of Oversight ... The 1,336-page bill to overhaul financial regulation that Senate Democrats put forward on Monday with the backing of the Obama administration calls for Washington to play a more active role in policing Wall Street."

NY Times: "At Lehman, Watchdogs Saw It All ... Almost two years ago to the day, a team of officials from the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York quietly moved into the headquarters of Lehman Brothers."

LA Times: "Dodd unveils slimmed-down financial reform proposal ... With memories of the financial crisis already fading, Senate Banking Committee Chairman Christopher J. Dodd tried to jump-start the stalled effort to pass a major regulatory overhaul this year that would protect the public from another economic meltdown."

USA Today: "Dodd's 2nd shot at financial reform still leaves loopholes ... Trying to fix the broken U.S. financial system is no way to win a popularity contest. Standing by himself, Christopher Dodd, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, on Monday announced his second attempt to plug loopholes in financial regulation and find ways to prevent a repeat of the crisis that overtook Wall Street in late 2008."

USA Today: "Pay czar limits exec pay at still-struggling GMAC ... The Obama administration's pay czar is limiting 2010 compensation for top executives at GMAC because the auto finance giant continues to lose money and has no strategy for repaying its \$16.3 billion taxpayer bailout, according to people familiar with the negotiations."

Politico: "Chris Dodd proposal hits Wall Street hard ... The cynics called it a stunt, a photo-op and dead on arrival."

The Hill: "Dodd sets up new scrutiny over Wall St. ... Sen. Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) on Monday unveiled wide-ranging financial legislation in his latest move to complete an overhaul in 2010."

The Bond Buyer: "Dodd Bill Would Bring Munis to Forefront ... Senate Banking Committee chairman Christopher Dodd yesterday introduced a massive, reworked financial regulatory reform bill that would require the head of the Securities and Exchange Commission's municipal securities office to report directly to the SEC chairman, significantly raising the profile of the muni market."